



Bunyan Meeting

Mill Street

Bedford

Sunday 19th November 2023
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after
Trinity



Welcome to worship at Bunyan Meeting

Bunyan Meeting is an Independent Church founded in 1650 and is affiliated to The Congregational Federation and The Baptist Union.

Following the services tea and coffee will be served in the church foyer.

Children are welcome to use the activities provided in the children's corner and church foyer during morning worship.

If this is your first visit to Bunyan Meeting, please introduce yourself to one of our stewards.

Our services today

- 9.30am Christ, Coffee and Croissants All Age worship
- 11.00am Morning worship
conducted by our Minister
- 6.30pm Evening worship with Communion
conducted by our Minister

Our services next Sunday

- 11.00am Morning worship
conducted by Rev'd John Matthews
- 6.30pm Evening worship
conducted by Rev'd John Matthews

Our services are livestreamed. If you do not wish to appear on the livestream you can evade the reach of the camera by sitting at the sides or in the back two rows of the central seating of the ground floor of the church or in the central back gallery.

You can also join us live at our services on our **YouTube Channel**
Just go to: <https://www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/live>



Please keep silence before our service when the Bible is brought into church and use this time for reflection and private prayer

Our church flowers today



are given by Queenie Murdie

The offering for Sunday 12th November amounted to £1377.40

The Communion Offering

for 2023 will be in aid of **Magpas Air Ambulance**

**We pray for members and friends of the church,
remembering especially:**

Linda Garner

Chris Wootton

Roy Prudden

Audrey Mehew

Joseph

Josie Gurr

Julie Barker

Stephen Sleight's father, Brian

Queenie Murdie and family after the death of her son,
Richard

The family and friends of Ruth Lawrence

The family and friends of Stewart Bell

The family and friends of Delia O'Halloran

For your prayers

The special prayer for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O LORD, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Congregational Federation

Higham

Last year, a civic service marking the bicentenary of the church was such a success it was felt that it could become a regular feature of the annual cycle. So, for a second year, we are inviting key people in the community to attend a service. Please pray for the usefulness of the event.

The Baptist Union

Today is Safeguarding Sunday. We pray for all those who have suffered hurt and harm within the family of the Church. As Church we are one body and if one part suffers, every part suffers with it. We also pray for those who serve in a safeguarding role within our churches. Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and respond to their requests and advice so that we might be a safer place for everyone.

www.thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.00am

Hymns from Baptist Praise & Worship

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Introit

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 37

Crown him with many crowns (omit v 4 & 5)

Introduction to Theme

Hymn No. 97

Come, Holy Ghost

First Reading

Zephaniah I v 1 & 12 – 18 (page 944)

Read by Geoff Shaw

Anthem

Second Reading

Matthew 25 v 14 – 30 (page 994)

Read by Myra Powell

Hymn No. 613

The Church of Christ in every age

Sermon

Hymn No. 546

Through the night of doubt and sorrow

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and Dedication

Hymn No. 486

Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

EVENING WORSHIP at 6.30pm
Hymns from Rejoice and Sing

Opening Voluntaries

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 77

Sing to the Lord a joyful song

Readings

Psalm 35 v 1 – 9 (page 562)

Exodus 2 v 11 – 15 (page 59)

Hebrews 11 v 27 (page 1210)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn No. 538

Teach me, my God and King

Sermon

Silent Prayer

Offering and Dedication

As the offering is brought forward we stand and sing the doxology no. 21

Hymn No. 456

O bread to pilgrims given

Communion

All who love the Lord are welcome to share in the bread and the wine

Hymn No. 96

Great is thy faithfulness

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

CCLI Licence No. 3740

Bunyan Meeting News Letter

The King's Arms Project

Following a change in service provision during Covid, this winter there is an increasing number of people who are finding themselves 'street homeless'.

The Bedford Winter Night Shelter is a response to this practical need. King's Arms Project is providing the venue and co-ordination for the shelter. We cannot do it alone - we need your help as we open our doors from the 1st December!

We face the prospect of providing around 20 bed spaces every night. Currently, these people are scattered around the town, sleeping in tents, bin stores and doorways. We want to bring them into a warm, safe and dry shelter, out of the cold. Not only this, but we provide nourishing food, clean and comfortable sleeping arrangements as well as offering advice and support. The Bedford Winter Night Shelter will be a place of welcome, community and friendship.

This is Bedford. This is our town, and we believe that no one should face homelessness alone.

If you feel the same please show your support! Give your time, make a donation or prepare a meal. Complete the short form on our Bedford Winter Night Shelter page to let us know how you can help people in our community get out of the cold this winter.

Kirstie Cook CEO

Please see more details on the Website: **King's Arms Project**

Church rotas for 2024

I am about to start drawing up the Church rotas for the first quarter of next year, January to March 2024.

Please let me know by Monday 27 November if there are any dates over that period when you know you won't be available, or if there are any changes to your rota preferences.

We are thinly stretched across the board, so please consider signing up for the first time or taking on an extra duty or two, it will make a significant difference. Let me know if you can.

Many thanks to you all, as ever, for the huge amount of voluntary time and effort that keeps the show on the road.

Ian Rowlands Email ian.rowlands@ntlworld.com

Mobile: 07401 119 776

Thank you to all who supported the Coffee Morning last Saturday; and to those who brought cakes for the cake stall and items for the raffle and tombola. Thank you to Andy and Helen for very tasty butties.

We raised £460 for church funds but more importantly, we enjoyed a great time of fellowship, meeting friends, sharing stories and having a good laugh.

Thank you to all who helped to make this possible.

Sue Gauley

Bunyan Postal Service - Advance Notice

It may seem a bit early, but as Christmas Day is on a Monday this year we need to set out the timetable for postings and collections from the Post Box.

For those of you who are new to Bunyan, let me explain.

For several decades now we have operated a system whereby Christmas cards can be distributed within the fellowship without bothering Royal Mail.

Cards can be posted in the Bunyan Post Box and a donation (gift aided) put into Santa's tin. The Post Box is emptied regularly and the cards are placed on a table in the large hall; these can be collected on Sundays.

The Post Box will be in place on Thursday 30th November with the very final emptying on Thursday 21st December.

Subject to Church Meeting approval, the monies collected will again be given to the Smart Christmas Appeal.

Brian and Brenda

The Posties

A Thank You from Delia

The last months of Delia's life were challenging and painful but one of the things which sustained her throughout this period was the awareness of so many prayers being said for her.

Just before Delia passed away, she asked me to thank the Church family at Bunyan, on her behalf, for all the concern, the beautiful cards, the flowers, the visits and most of all, the prayers.

Delia continued to minister to others despite her situation and was constant in her prayers for others, not least her friends at Bunyan Meeting.

Rest in peace in your Saviour's arms Delia.

Gilly

Delia's funeral service will be held at Bunyan Meeting on Monday, 20th November at 3.00pm followed by refreshments in the Large Hall.

Ruth Lawrence

It is with sadness that we report the death of our mother, Ruth Lawrence who died after a long battle with Alzheimer's on Monday 30th October aged 91.

Ruth had a lifelong connection and involvement with Bunyan Meeting. For many years she took the Senior groups in Sunday School, was a Deacon, and perhaps her most important contribution was the development and running of what must have been one of the first truly multi-cultural youth clubs in Bedford, based at Bunyan.

Ruth was a talented musician (who had trained at the Royal College of Music) who would play for services particularly in the Branch churches. She taught the piano and accompanied ballet classes, the Bedford Marionettes as well as accompanying our Grandmother's Choir (Alice Minns, who was also a long-term member of Bunyan Meeting and Church Choir Member).

Outside of church life she would always help those young people who were disadvantaged and needed her help, including giving them a roof over their head if it was needed. She was involved in the running of the Bedford Boys Club.

A Celebration of her life will take place at Bunyan Meeting on Monday 27th November 2023 at 11.30am, all are welcome.

David and Ian Lawrence

Stewart Bell

Stewart's funeral service will be held at Bunyan Meeting on Wednesday 22nd November at 12.30pm and afterwards in the Hall.

The BMS Birthday Scheme

If you wish to support the important work of BMS World Mission, please contact Sue Hammond for details of their Birthday Scheme. It's a great way to celebrate a birthday as well as helping a great cause.

'Happy Birthday'

Sheila Mousley 28th November

Sue Hammond



Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow him, knows where the path will lead. But we know that it will be a path full of mercy beyond measure. Discipleship is joy. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Wise Words from Ken

Happiness is not something ready-made; it comes from your own actions.



My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

Organisation and Process Review – Update 16th November 2023

An email with two attachments was sent around to all on the church email group but unfortunately those with a BT internet address did not receive theirs: for some reason the email bounced back. I will attempt to resend it with the two attachments on Monday. In the meantime, there are some hard copies of the attachments, a letter from Geoff Shaw and the Information Pack, at the back of the Church.

Sue Stewart, Church Office

This week at Bunyan Meeting

Monday 20th November

Come & Sing 1.30pm – 3.00pm, Stevington/Harrowden rooms
Funeral for Delia O'Halloran 3.00pm

Tuesday 21st November

Website Meeting 3.00pm, Ampthill room
Eco Church Meeting 7.30pm, Church

WEDNESDAY 22nd November

Wednesday Workshops at 10.00am & 1.00pm, Harrowden room
Funeral for Stewart Bell 12.30pm
Lunchtime Service 1.30pm led by Ian Rowlands
Trustees Meeting 2.30pm

THURSDAY 23rd November

Knit & Natter 11.00am – 12noon, Coffee Shop
Ministry Meeting 10.00am – 11.30am, Deacons Vestry

COFFEE SHOP

Open Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 1.00pm
(1.30pm on Wednesdays).

JOHN BUNYAN MUSEUM

The Museum is now closed for the winter

Normal Museum's opening times:

Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 4pm (last entry 3.45pm).
www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/planning-your-visit

BASEMENT AT BUNYAN

Exhibition of Non-Conformist Portraits

Wednesday 15th November to Saturday 2nd December

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 4pm

Contact Information

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU

Minister:	Rev'd Christopher J Damp MA BD
Day off: Monday	
Tel: 01234 353465 (Office) 01234 353730 (Manse)	email: minister@bunyanmeeting.co.uk
Acting Church Treasurers:	Brian Cornish, Andrew Duthie
Organist & Choirmaster:	Brian S Caves ATCL Tel: 767776
Acting Church Secretary:	Sue Gauley Tel: 3067723
Museum Curators:	Nicola Sherhod and Jennifer Ayley
Tel: 01234 270303	email: curator@bunyanmeeting.co.uk
Basement @ Bunyan	Anne-Marie Abbate Tel: 07775 973501
Coordinator:	email: amabbate@yahoo.com
Caretaker:	Jo Stapleton Tel: 07591 167941
Caretakers' mobile:	Tel: 07591 167941
Administrative Assistant:	Sue Stewart Tel: 01234 213722
Church Office	email: bunyanmeeting@gmail.com
Website:	www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk
News Letter Editor:	Jocelyn Harper Tel: 01234 406969 email: jos.harpy@ntlworld.com

[Any views expressed in articles in the News Letter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent church policy or the views of the Minister, Officers of the church or the News Letter Editor]

News Letter deadline

Please send items to the Editor, Jocelyn Harper,
email: jos.harpy@ntlworld.com Tel: 406969 by 6pm on Tuesday for inclusion in the Sunday newsletter. Thank you

Bunyan Meeting Charity No: 248195